

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VALLET 00708 230749Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 INR-07 ACDA-10 PM-04

DODE-00 IO-14 DLOS-09 /060 W

-----053647 230753Z /23

P R 230715Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7462

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0708

FOR IOP/M, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - DISARMAMENT

1. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ENTITLED "SEABED TREATY" APPEARED
IN "TIMES OF MALTA" OF JUNE 21:

2. BEGIN TEXT. A TREATY WHICH BANS WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION FROM THE SEABED - THE UPSHOT OF MALTA'S
INITIATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1968 - IS UNDER DIS-
CUSSION BY INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATORS NOW MEETING
AT GENEVA. THEY ARE CONSIDERING HOW EFFECTIVE THE TREATY,
WHICH CAME INTO FORCE IN MAY, 1972, HAS BEEN IN PRACTICE.

SIXTY STATES HAVE RATIFIED THE TREATY AND 35 OTHERS HAVE
SIGNED IT. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT A CALL WILL BE MADE
AT THE U.N. - SPONSORED CONFERENCE FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE
TREATY TO COVER THE COMPLETE DEMILITARISATION OF THE OCEAN
FLOOR.

3. THE UNITED STATES IS OPPOSED TO COMPLETE DEMILITARISATION
SINCE SUCH A TREATY WOULD PROHIBIT SELF-DEFENCE MEASURES,
SUCH AS ANTI-SUBMARINE WARNING SYSTEMS. ANOTHER REASON
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PUT FORWARD BY THE UNITED STATES IS THAT SUCH AN EXPANSION
WOULD BE UNWORKABLE BEWUSE OF THE VERIFICATION PROBLEM.
COMPLETE DEMILITARISATION IS, OF COURSE, A LONG CHERISHED
DREAM, SINCE IT WOULD LEAVE THE SEAS AND OCEANS RIPE ONLY FOR
EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION FOR THE GOOD OF ALL PEOPLES
OF THE WORLD. BUT SINCE THE WORLD HAS NOT REACHED THE STAGE
WHICH REMOVES THE LIKELIHOOD OF WARS BREAKING OUT, THERE

MUST REMAIN THE PROVISIO FOR DEFENSIVE MEASURES. END TEXT.
RADDAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, DISARMAMENT, SEABED
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VALLET00708
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770224-0300
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770625/aaaaavnz.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aaf4ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN, MT, TIMES OF MALTA
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